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Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (A/54/808). In his report, the Secretary-General is seeking authority to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding $200 million to meet the most immediate anticipated requirements of MONUC. This amount is inclusive of the amounts of $8.7 million and $32.3 million gross already authorized by the Advisory Committee in November and December 1999, respectively, under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 on the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations.

2. The mandate of MONUC is contained in paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the resolution, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of MONUC until 31 August 2000 and authorized the expansion of the Mission to consist of up to 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 observers, or more, provided that the Secretary-General determined that there was a need and that it could be accommodated within the overall force size and structure. Also in paragraph 4 the Security Council authorized the inclusion of appropriated civilian support staff in the areas, *inter alia*, of human rights, humanitarian affairs, public information, child protection, political affairs, medical support and administrative support and requested the Secretary-General to recommend immediately any force requirements that might become necessary to enhance force protection.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General that against the commitment authorities of $41 million mentioned above, as at 29 February 2000, expenditures and obligations total $33.3 million, including $29.9 million for the requisition of equipment and material and $3.4 million for military and civilian personnel costs. At the end of March 2000, the strength of the military component of MONUC reached 103 personnel, supported by 97 civilian staff, including 57 local posts. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that no national Professional staff were included in the local staff.

4. The Advisory Committee notes the amounts indicated in paragraph 11 of the report as tentative estimates of various logistical, equipment and personnel requirements of MONUC. In this connection, the Committee recommends that efforts be made to use locally available expertise as much as possible and encourages the Secretariat to use

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fully their past experience in various peacekeeping operations in Africa to obtain goods and services, including local contractors, from local and regional markets.

5. In response to its request, the Advisory Committee was informed that under the assumptions set out in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council of 17 January 2000 (S/2000/30), the proposed amount of $200 million would cover the operational requirements of MONUC until the end of the first quarter of the next financial period of the Mission. A detailed budget proposal for the Mission's requirements will be submitted to the Committee in September 2000 during its fall session.

6. With respect to the action to be taken by the General Assembly, under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee concurs with the proposal of the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report of 23 March 2000 (A/54/808). Accordingly, the Committee recommends, that to cover the initial operational requirements of MONUC, the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding $200 million, inclusive of the amount of $41 million gross already authorized by the Advisory Committee. In making this recommendation, the Committee is aware of the many uncertainties with regard to MONUC, including the timing of deployment. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000). The Committee is also concerned about the problems inherent in stockpiling in advance in such situation. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report of the Secretary-General, by which time the situation should have been clarified.